

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for electrotherapy such as a portable defibrillator, having a checking circuit, particularly a test circuit for checking functions of the apparatus in a test routine or for ascertaining values of an internal condition of the apparatus, the apparatus further comprises communication means for data transmissions coupled or adapted to be coupled to the checking circuit, that communication means being designed to transmit to a receiver data selected from the group consisting of data relating to the performance of a test, data relating to results of the test routines and data relating to the internal condition of the apparatus.
2. An apparatus for electrotherapy, such as a portable defibrillator, having a checking circuit, particularly a test circuit for checking functions of the apparatus in a test routine and/or for ascertaining internal conditions of the apparatus, the apparatus further comprising communication means for data transmission which are coupled or adapted to be coupled to the checking circuit, wherein the checking circuit is designed in such a way as to execute the test routine on the basis of a command transmitted from a central control station to the checking circuit through the communication means.
3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication means are designed for wireless data transmission.
4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the communication means comprise a GSM module.
5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the checking circuit is designed to perform the test routine on a regular basis.
6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the checking circuit is designed to perform the test routine cyclically.

7. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the checking circuit interacts with the communication means such that a confirmation is transmitted to the receiver after each test routine performed.
8. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the test circuit interacts with the communication means such that the discovery of an error in the test routine prompts a warning to be transmitted to the receiver and, optionally, an error log to be transmitted.
9. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises at least one loudspeaker and a microphone coupled to the communication means and used for transmitting speech.
10. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the apparatus is provided with measuring means for detecting the status of an energy source, and in that the measuring means for detecting the status of the energy source are coupled directly or indirectly to the communication means.
11. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication means are designed for receiving data, and in that the communication means are coupled or can be coupled, to at least one of a computer arrangement, checking circuit and to a defibrillator part.
12. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is designed such that the communication means transmit a confirmation to the receiver each time the apparatus has been used.
13. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is designed such that the communication means transmit an alarm to the receiver or to a predeterminable further receiver when the apparatus has been started up.
14. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is provided with a GPS arrangement.

15. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is provided with fitting means for fixing the apparatus, the apparatus being provided with sensor means detecting the presence of the apparatus in the fitting means, the communication means transmitting a warning as soon as the apparatus has been removed from the fitting means.

16. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the GSM module is contained in the fitting means.

17. A method for testing and/or operating an apparatus for electrotherapy according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- performing a test routine is performed on a regular basis;
- checking whether a predeterminable test criterion has been satisfied;
- transmitting data to a receiver using communication means contained in the apparatus if the test criterion has been satisfied.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the test criterion is checked by checking whether at least one of the following conditions have been satisfied:

- has a test routine been executed?
- have errors been found in the test routine?
- is the battery status no longer adequate?
- is the apparatus being used?
- has the apparatus been removed from fitting means?

19. A system with a plurality of apparatuses according to claim 1 and with a central recording point for receiving or for evaluating data transmitted by the communication means in the apparatuses to the central recording point.